

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER: _____**

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/224,409 | 12/31/1998 | RICHARD C. FENWICK JR. | ONCO-002 | 3722 |
| 7590 | 11/04/2004 | | EXAMINER | |
| PAUL A. RAGUSA BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | VU, NGOC K | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2611 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/224,409 Ngoc K. Vu | FENWICK JR. ET AL. Art Unit 2611 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11,12,14,15,18,19,26,27,29,30 and 36-45 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 11,12,14,15,18,19,26,27,29,30 and 36-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/14/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 11, 12, 14, 18, 19 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11, 14 and 18 are indefinite because there is no antecedent basis for the limitation "said selection of program material" in lines 10, 11 and 10, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 26, 27, 29, 30, 36-39 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

Art Unit: 2611

103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoel et al (US 5,905,942) in view of Wolfe et al (US 5,931,901) and further in view of Smith et al. (US 5,581,270 A).

Regarding **claim 11**, Stoel discloses a method for presenting program material from a plurality of program sources (e.g., video-on-demand and games sources) to users using a host computing device (70 – see figure 3A) and allocating tasks among a plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B), the method comprising:

responding to a user request to order program material by selecting one of a plurality of assignable computing devices (UHC 70 selects one of devices such as 76 or 80 for game service or video-on-demand service, responding to a user request to order program material – see figures 3A-3B; col. 6, lines 44-49 and 63-67; col. 8, line 45-59);

presenting the user with a menu over a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) (UHC 70 from headend 12 provides a menu to the subscriber 16 over interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 10, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 25-35 and line 58 col. 12, line 6; col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 3, lines 3-5; col. 8, lines 46-54; and figure 1);

receiving a program selection from the user over the RCS (a program selection from subscriber unit 16 is transmitted back to headend 12 over interdiction field unit 28 – see figure 1 and col. 3, lines 5-9 and 51-57; col. 8, lines 51-56);

responding to the selection of program material by selecting one of plurality of audiovisual serving devices to present the program material (for example, UHC 70 selects the particular VCP to be played, based upon keystrokes received from the subscriber during an interactive menu session; when the subscriber has ordered a game, UHC 70 downloads the necessary game control data through SDLC and line 110 to RF modem 72, which provides that downloaded data over line 128 to game platform 76 where it is stored for use by the particular game port that is in play – see col. 9, lines 16-20 and 61-63); and

Art Unit: 2611

presenting the program material to the user over the RCS (for example, the program material, e.g., game or movie, is send to the subscriber 16 over the interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 8, lines 59-62; col. 2, lines 41-56 and figure 1).

Stoel does not explicitly disclose creating a set of user data listing stated user preferences.

However, Wolfe discloses creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including age, education, income, musical selections previously or simultaneously made by the subscriber, purchasing habits, etc (see col. 4, lines 62-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including personal information, music selections previously or purchasing habits as taught by Wolfe in order to effectively provide the appropriated program or suitable material from a provider to a particular subscriber.

Stoel discloses providing the menu from UHC 70 to the subscriber 16, but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the selected assignable computing device being used to generate the menu.

However, Smith teaches that the host computer 7 may download an applications program for each SNES engine to execute for generating a main menu display. As desired, any one of the SNES engines (1 to N), the host computer 7 may be programmed to control the generation of menu displays (see col. 7, lines 35-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by selecting any one of SNES engines to generate a menu as taught by Smith in order to efficiently provide menu in which a wide range of available items may be selected by the subscriber.

Regarding **claims 12 and 36**, Stoel as modified by Wolfe further includes that based on the each user, the provider presents to each individual a menu of music selection which best fits the individual's references and music taste (see Wolfe: col. 5, lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 37**, Stoel discloses that the menu comprising services is generated upon subscriber's pressing a menu button (see col. 11, lines 25-35, line 66 to col. 12, line 6; col. 4, lines 62-67).

Regarding **claim 14**, Stoel discloses a method for presenting program material from a plurality of program sources (e.g., video-on-demand and games sources) to users using a host computing device (70 – see figure 3A) and allocating tasks among a plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B), the method comprising:

responding to a user request to order program material by selecting one of a plurality of assignable computing devices (UHC 70 selects one of devices such as 76 or 80 for game service or video-on-demand service, responding to a user request to order program material – see figures 3A-3B; col. 6, lines 44-49 and 63-67; col. 8, line 45-59);

presenting the user with a broadcast channel (providing a RF channel to the subscriber 16 – see col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 26-28);

presenting the user with a menu over a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) (UHC 70 from headend 12 provides a menu to the subscriber 16 over interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 10, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 25-35 and line 58 col. 12, line 6; col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 3, lines 3-5; col. 8, lines 46-54; and figure 1);

receiving a program selection from the user over the RCS (a program selection from subscriber unit 16 is transmitted back to headend 12 over interdiction field unit 28 – see figure 1 and col. 3, lines 5-9 and 51-57; col. 8, lines 51-56);

responding to the selection of program material by selecting one of plurality of

Art Unit: 2611

audiovisual serving devices to present the program material (for example, UHC 70 selects the particular VCP to be played, based upon keystrokes received from the subscriber during an interactive menu session; when the subscriber has ordered a game, UHC 70 downloads the necessary game control data through SDLC and line 110 to RF modem 72, which provides that downloaded data over line 128 to game platform 76 where it is stored for use by the particular game port that is in play – see col. 9, lines 16-20 and 61-63); and

presenting the program material to the user over the RCS (for example, the program material, e.g., game or movie, is send to the subscriber 16 over the interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 8, lines 59-62; col. 2, lines 41-56 and figure 1).

Stoel does not explicitly disclose creating a set of user data listing stated user preferences.

However, Wolfe discloses creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including age, education, income, musical selections previously or simultaneously made by the subscriber, purchasing habits, etc (see col. 4, lines 62-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including personal information, music selections previously or purchasing habits as taught by Wolfe in order to effectively provide the appropriated program or suitable material from a provider to a particular subscriber.

Stoel discloses providing the menu from UHC 70 to the subscriber 16, but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the selected assignable computing device being used to generate the menu.

However, Smith teaches that the host computer 7 may download an applications program for each SNES engine to execute for generating a main menu display. As desired, any one of the SNES engines (1 to N), the host computer 7 may be programmed to control the generation of menu displays (see col. 7, lines 35-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by selecting any one of SNES engines to generate a menu as taught by Smith in order to efficiently provide menu in which a wide range of available items may be selected by the subscriber.

Regarding **claim 15**, Stoel discloses providing RF channel to the subscriber 16 (see col. 3, lines 26-28). Stoel does not disclose the broadcast channel is modified to reflect the set of user preferences. Official Notice is taken that providing the broadcast channel based on the user preferences or viewing habits is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by including the broadcast channel based on the user preferences or viewing habits in order to provide the suitable programming or material to the targeted user.

Regarding **claim 38**, Stoel as modified by Wolfe further includes that based on the each user, the provider presents to each individual a menu of music selection which best fits the individual's references and music taste (see Wolfe: col. 5, lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 39**, Stoel discloses that the menu comprising services is generated upon subscriber's pressing a menu button (see col. 11, lines 25-35, line 66 to col. 12, line 6; col. 4, lines 62-67).

Regarding **claim 26**, Stoel discloses an apparatus (see figures 1-3B) for presenting program material from a plurality of program sources (video-on-demand, games sources) to users using a host computing device (70 – see figure 3A) and plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B), comprising:

a programming subsystem (subsystem of headend 12 shown in figure 3B), the programming subsystem including a plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B);

a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) (28 – see figure 1);
a Site Management Subsystem (SMS) (70 – see figure 3A); and
a plurality of Assignable Computing Device audiovisual serving devices (devices 76 and 80 – see figure 3B);

wherein the audiovisual serving service devices communicate with the user terminals over the Room Communication Subsystem (the game ports and VCPs from headend 12 communicate with the subscriber 16 over interdiction field unit 28 to provide games or movies – col. 8, lines 57-62; col. 9, lines 26-31 and col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 9, line 59-4), the Site Management Subsystem can assign at least one Assignable Computing Device (device 76 or 80) to communicate with a user terminal in response to an initial communication from a user terminal (UHC 70 assigns device 76 or 80 to provide game service or video-on-demand service to a subscriber 16 in response to subscriber selection – see col. 8, lines 46-66; col. 6, lines 63-67).

Stoel does not explicitly disclose storing a set of user data listing stated user preferences. However, Wolfe discloses storing the user profile for each subscriber including age, education, income, musical selections previously or simultaneously made by the subscriber, purchasing habits, etc (see Col. 4, lines 62-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including personal information, music selections previously or purchasing habits as taught by Wolfe in order to effectively provides the appropriated program or suitable material from a provider to a particular user.

Stoel discloses providing a menu from UHC 70 to the subscriber 16 (see col. 10, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 25-35 and line 58 col. 12, line 6; col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 3, lines 3-5; col. 8,

Art Unit: 2611

lines 46-54), but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the assigned assignable computing device generates the menu.

However, Smith teaches that the host computer 7 may download an applications program for each SNES engine to execute for generating a main menu display. As desired, any one of the SNES engines (1 to N), the host computer 7 may be programmed to control the generation of menu displays (see col. 7, lines 35-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by selecting any one of SNES engines to generate a menu as taught by Smith in order to efficiently provide menu in which a wide range of available items may be selected by the subscriber.

Regarding **claims 27 and 42**, Stoel as modified by Wolfe further includes that based on the each user, the provider presents to each individual a menu of music selection which best fits the individual's references and music taste (see Wolfe: col. 5, lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 43**, Stoel discloses that the menu comprising services is generated upon subscriber's pressing the menu button (see col. 11, lines 25-35, line 66 to col. 12, line 6; col. 4, lines 62-67).

Regarding **claim 29**, Stoel discloses an apparatus (see figures 1-3B) for presenting program material from a plurality of program sources (video-on-demand, games sources) to users using a host computing device (70 – see figure 3A) and plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B), comprising:

a programming subsystem (subsystem of headend 12 shown in figure 3B), the programming subsystem including a plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B);

a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) (28 – see figure 1);

a Site Management Subsystem (SMS) (70 – see figure 3A); and

a plurality of Assignable Computing Device audiovisual serving devices (devices 76 and 80 – see figure 3B); a broadcast channel (a RF channel to the subscriber 16 – see col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 26-28);

wherein the audiovisual serving service devices communicate with the user terminals over the Room Communication Subsystem (the game ports and VCPs from headend 12 communicate with the subscriber 16 over interdiction field unit 28 to provide games or movies – col. 8, lines 57-62; col. 9, lines 26-31 and col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 9, line 59-4), the Site Management Subsystem can assign at least one Assignable Computing Device (device 76 or 80) to communicate with a user terminal in response to an initial communication from a user terminal (UHC 70 assigns device 76 or 80 to provide game service or video-on-demand service to a subscriber 16 in response to subscriber selection – see col. 8, lines 46-66; col. 6, lines 63-67).

Stoel does not explicitly disclose storing a set of user data listing stated user preferences. However, Wolfe discloses storing the user profile for each subscriber including age, education, income, musical selections previously or simultaneously made by the subscriber, purchasing habits, etc (see Col. 4, lines 62-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by creating and storing the user profile for each subscriber including personal information, music selections previously or purchasing habits as taught by Wolfe in order to effectively provides the appropriated program or suitable material from a provider to a particular user.

Stoel discloses providing a menu from UHC 70 to the subscriber 16 (see col. 10, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 25-35 and line 58 col. 12, line 6; col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 3, lines 3-5; col. 8,

Art Unit: 2611

lines 46-54), but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the assigned assignable computing device generates the menu.

However, Smith teaches that the host computer 7 may download an applications program for each SNES engine to execute for generating a main menu display. As desired, any one of the SNES engines (1 to N), the host computer 7 may be programmed to control the generation of menu displays (see col. 7, lines 35-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by selecting any one of SNES engines to generate a menu as taught by Smith in order to efficiently provide menu in which a wide range of available items may be selected by the subscriber.

Regarding **claim 30**, Stoel discloses providing RF channel to the subscriber 16 (see col. 3, lines 26-28). Stoel does not disclose the broadcast channel is modified to reflect the set of user preferences. Official Notice is taken that providing the broadcast channel based on the user preferences or viewing habits is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by including the broadcast channel based on the user preferences or viewing habits in order to provide the suitable programming or material to the targeted user.

Regarding **claim 44**, Stoel as modified by Wolfe further includes that based on the each user, the provider presents to each individual a menu of music selection which best fits the individual's references and music taste (see Wolfe; col. 5, lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 45**, Stoel discloses that the menu comprising services is generated upon subscriber's pressing the menu button (see col. 11, lines 25-35, line 66 to col. 12, line 6; col. 4, lines 62-67).

Art Unit: 2611

5. Claims 18, 19 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoel et al (US 5,905,942) in view of Ohno et al (US 5,781,734 A) and further in view of Smith et al. (US 5,581,270 A).

Regarding **claim 18**, Stoel discloses a method for presenting program material from a plurality of program sources (e.g., video-on-demand and games sources) to users using a host computing device (70 – see figure 3A) and allocating tasks among a plurality of audiovisual serving devices (game ports, VCPs – see figure 3B), the method comprising:

responding to a user request to order program material by selecting one of a plurality of assignable computing devices (UHC 70 selects one of devices such as 76 or 80 for game service or video-on-demand service, responding to a user request to order program material – see figures 3A-3B; col. 6, lines 44-49 and 63-67; col. 8, line 45-59);

presenting the user with a menu over a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS) (UHC 70 from headend 12 provides a menu to the subscriber 16 over interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 10, lines 61-65; col. 11, lines 25-35 and line 58 col. 12, line 6; col. 2, lines 41-56; col. 3, lines 3-5; col. 8, lines 46-54; and figure 1);

receiving a program selection from the user over the RCS (a program selection from subscriber unit 16 is transmitted back to headend 12 over interdiction field unit 28 – see figure 1 and col. 3, lines 5-9 and 51-57; col. 8, lines 51-56);

responding to the selection of program material by selecting one of plurality of audiovisual serving devices to present the program material (for example, UHC 70 selects the particular VCP to be played, based upon keystrokes received from the subscriber during an interactive menu session; when the subscriber has ordered a game, UHC 70 downloads the necessary game control data through SDLC and line 110 to RF modem 72, which provides that

Art Unit: 2611

downloaded data over line 128 to game platform 76 where it is stored for use by the particular game port that is in play – see col. 9, lines 16-20 and 61-63); and

presenting the program material to the user over the RCS (for example, the program material, e.g., game or movie, is send to the subscriber 16 over the interdiction field unit 28 – see col. 8, lines 59-62; col. 2, lines 41-56 and figure 1).

Stoel fails to disclose polling the audiovisual service device for status. However, Ohno discloses a main processor 105 included a memory 106 stores a STATUS file indicating the operation status of the video sources. The main processor 105 performs the system management including polling and allocation of the video sources (see col. 3, lines 37-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by polling the audiovisual serving device for status in order to perform management of the video sources and to prevent the error of distributing video signals.

Stoel discloses providing the menu from UHC 70 to the subscriber 16, but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the selected assignable computing device being used to generate the menu.

However, Smith teaches that the host computer 7 may download an applications program for each SNES engine to execute for generating a main menu display. As desired, any one of the SNES engines (1 to N), the host computer 7 may be programmed to control the generation of menu displays (see col. 7, lines 35-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by selecting any one of SNES engines to generate a menu as taught by Smith in order to efficiently provide menu in which a wide range of available items may be selected by the subscriber.

Regarding **claim 19**, Stoel discloses that the UHC 70 controls VCPs of system 80 through the switch 82 by telling it which input port to connect to which output port. The S-control

is the communication code that tells a VCP 142A-142D what to do when it receives a certain signal. Messages from UHC 70 through switch 82 to the VCPs 142A-142D include Stop, Play, Turn On, Turn Off ...etc (see col. 10, lines 35-43). Stoel does not explicitly disclose restarting the audiovisual serving device after a second defined interval of time. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Stoel by controlling the VCP to be restarted (i.e., turn off and then turn on) from the command of the UHC 70 after a period of time in order to refresh the VCP.

Regarding **claim 41**, Stoel discloses that the menu comprising services is generated upon subscriber's pressing the menu button (see col. 11, lines 25-35, line 66 to col. 12, line 6; col. 4, lines 62-67).

6. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoel et al (US 5,905,942) in view of Ohno et al (US 5,781,734 A) and Smith et al. (US 5,581,270 A and further in view of Wolfe et al (US 5,931,901 A).

Regarding **claim 40**, Stoel discloses providing a menu for selecting services (see col. 8, lines 49-55), but Stoel does not explicitly disclose the menu generated is automatically customized based on information related to the user. However, Wolfe discloses that based on the each user, the provider presents to each individual a menu of music selection which best fits the individual's references and music taste (see Wolfe: col. 5, lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Stoel by presenting a menu automatically customized based on each individual's references as taught by Wolfe in order to allow the user easily navigating and selecting the programming that he/she is interested.

Art Unit: 2611

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 703-306-5976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 703-305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ngoc K. Vu
Examiner
Art Unit 2611

October 28, 2004